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URLEND, IDASL TRAINEES ATTEND CONFERENCE

October 24, 2012 by Sue Reeves

Trainees from two projects with the Center for Persons with Disabilities attended a major conference in Houston, Tex., last week without ever leaving home. The two-day conference, originating from Baylor Medical Center, focused on challenges and supports available to transition youth with significant medical issues from pediatric to adult care, said Dr. Judith Holt, co-director of the Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (URLEND) project. Significant medical issues, Holt said, could include chronic medical conditions such as cystic fibrosis or cardiac problems to developmental issues like autism.

"Attendance at the conference was not required, but the trainees can use the hours toward meeting their overall hour requirement," Holt said. "It's an example of the opportunities the trainees have here at the Center for Persons with Disabilities."

According to Holt, only a few members of the 2012 cohort of 48 trainees attended portions of the conference in the CPD's distance learning room, but many more viewed it from eight different URLEND sites in five states. Trainees from the CPD's Interdisciplinary Disability Awareness and Service Learning (IDASL) project also attended.

URLEND trainees participated in the 13th annual conference by invitation, Holt said, and the program was able to utilize a single access code for all of the sites because the trainees were so spread out.

"I was really very impressed with it," Holt said. "The speakers were excellent. It's another opportunity for trainees in our programs to participate in high-level conferences on significant topics."

URLEND trainees from a variety of disciplines are brought together with faculty and families of children with special health care needs to form an interdisciplinary learning cohort. Each long-term trainee participates in didactic (classroom) learning, leadership research, and clinical learning. Disciplines include pediatric medicine, genetics, and dentistry; psychology; social work; nursing; audiology; pediatric audiology; health administration; nutrition; special education; speech and language pathology; occupation therapy; and physical therapy.

IDASL provides opportunities for students, as well as individuals with disabilities and family members of children with disabilities, to become part of interdisciplinary teams. These teams, with faculty mentors, provide services and supports to children with disabilities and their families, as well as adults with disabilities.

For more information, visit:

[URLEND](#)

[IDASL](#)